

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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MEF 64 RECEIVED TODAY CONTAINS REF TO APPLICATION OF SECRETARY'S COMMITMENT TO CONGRESSMAN MAHON (DEPTTEL 379) TO PL 480 SHIPMENTS TO INDIA AS FOLLOWS: "WITH RESPECT TO ANY NEW COMMITMENTS, I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT THE SECY HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT NONE TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS."

WHILE EMBASSY HAD NOTED REF IN AID TO A-1842 TO LEGISLATIVE CONSULTATIONS AS PRECONDITION TO REQUESTING EXECUTIVE BRANCH APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PL 480 AGREEMENT WITH INDIA, IT HAD NOT RPT NOT UP TO NOW BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS WERE OF TYPE WITH WHICH SECY'S NUZIT MENT WAS CONCERNED, SINCE THAT COMMITMENT CLEARLY RELATED TO AID APPROPRIATIONS AND WAS MADE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF INDO-PAK HOSTILITIES.

AN EFFECT OF DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ABOVE QUOTED (WHICH INDIANS WILL BE QUICK TO RECOGNIZE) IS TO INCLUDE FOOD SHIPMENTS TO INDIA WITH OTHER CATEGORIES OF AID BEING SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF INDO-PAK FIGHTING.

I ASSUME STATEMENT IS INCORRECT. PLEASE CONFIRM. IF STATEMENT IS INCORRECT, I SUGGEST CLARIFYING STATEMENT BE MADE.

BEST WAY TO CORRECT THE RECORD IS FOR US PROMPTLY TO CONCLUDE, AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY URGED, AT LEAST INTERIM PL 480 AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL ONE MILLION TONS WHEAT (PLUS AVAILABLE QUANTITIES RICE AND DRY MILK). ASIDE FROM BASIC NEEDS THIS ACTION AS POINTED OUT IN NUMEROUS EMBASSY MESSAGES, IT IS NOW MORE THAN EVER ESSENTIAL TO AVOID GIVING INDIAN PUBLIC THE IMPRESSION WE ARE PREPARED AS MATTER US POLICY WITHHOLD ESSENTIALS OF LIFE UNLESS THEY CONFORM TO OUR WISHES.

GP-3 BOWLES

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NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE AT 8:35 A.M., 9-22-65.

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 8:22 A.M., 9-22-65.

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State Dept. declassification &amp; release instructions on file

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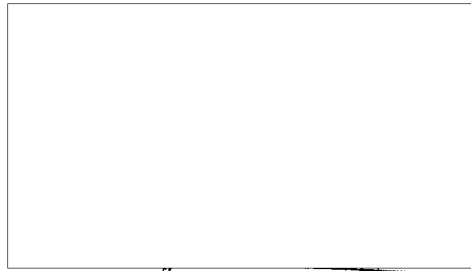
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